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Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Your letter of February 12, 1964 indicates that on the preceding day you delivered to this Commission a copy of a photograph which was displayed to Mrs. Marguerite Oswald on November 23, 1963, by Special Agent Bardwell D. Odum of your Bureau. You also referred to that photograph in your letter of February 7, 1964 in which you quoted portions of an article appearing in NATION magazine of January 7, 1964 and advised us that the photograph exhibited to Mrs. Oswald by Agent Odum was not a photograph of Mr. Jack L. Ruby.

The photograph which you delivered to us on February 11, 1964 was marked Commission Exhibit 237 and shown to Mrs. Oswald for purposes of identification during the course of her testimony before this Commission. Mrs. Oswald denied that Exhibit 237 was the same photograph as the one displayed to her on November 23, 1963 by Special Agent Odum. She specifically stated that the photograph which had been shown to her on that date had been cropped in a different manner from Exhibit 237 in that the former had not been

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cropped to follow the outline of the head and shoulders of the individual portrayed in the photograph, as was the case with Exhibit 237.

Mr. Wesley J. Liebeler of our staff advises me that on May 27, 1964 he requested Mr. Malley of your Bureau to provide for the purposes of our record a complete explanation of all of the circumstances surrounding the receipt of the photograph in question by your Bureau and its display to Mrs. Oswald. In response to that conversation, on June 9, 1964 your Bureau forwarded to this Commission other copies of the photograph which had been displayed to Mrs. Oswald. While it appears that the individual portrayed in the photograph forwarded with your letter of June 9, 1964 is the same individual that was portrayed in the photograph which you forwarded to us on February 11, 1964 and which was marked Commission Exhibit 237, we note that the two photographs have in fact been cropped in a different manner. The upper portion of the former is cropped roughly in the shape of a triangle whereas the latter (Exhibit 237) was cropped to follow the outline of the head and shoulders of the man portrayed in that photograph. Your letter of June 9, 1963 indicates that the original of the photograph that was actually shown to Mrs. Oswald is maintained in the files of your Bureau and sets forth on its backside the initials of Special Agent Odum.

In view of the confusion which now exists in the record of our proceedings as a result of the fact that the photograph which you forwarded to us on February 11, 1964 was not in fact identical to the photograph actually displayed to Mrs. Oswald on November 22, 1963, we would appreciate receiving a copy of both sides of the photograph which was in fact shown to Mrs. Oswald so that our record may show the initials of Special Agent Odum thereon. We would also like to have a statement from Special Agent Odum identifying the photograph which he in fact displayed to Mrs. Oswald and indicating the circumstances under which he did so.

We understand that the photograph in question was originally delivered to you by the Central Intelligence Agency. We would appreciate receiving statements from the officials of your Bureau who handled this matter at the time indicating when and by whom and the complete details of the circumstances under which that photograph was delivered to you. We are interested in, among other things, the number of copies delivered to you, the circumstances under which the photograph actually displayed to Mrs. Oswald was cropped, why and by whom and the reasons why that photograph was in fact displayed to Mrs. Oswald.

We would also appreciate advice as to the identity of the individual portrayed in that photograph.

Your continued cooperation is appreciated.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel